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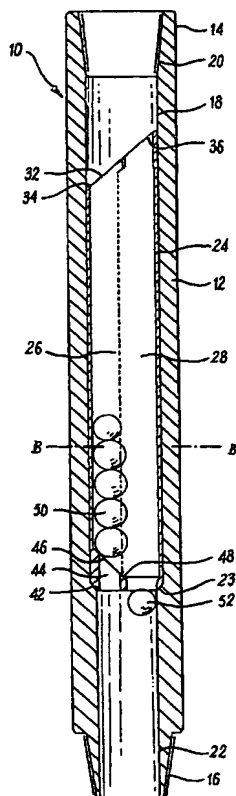
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **SPECIALISED PETROLEUM SERVICES GROUP LIMITED** [GB/GB]; Arnhall Business Park, Westhill, Aberdeen AB32 6UF (GB).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **TELFER, George** [GB/GB]; 19 Grosvenor Place, Aberdeen AB25 2RE (GB).
- (74) Agent: **KENNEDYS PATENT AGENCY LIMITED**; Floor 5, Queens House, 29 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DT (GB).
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(54) Title: **DOWNHOLE TOOL**



(57) Abstract: A ball catcher for selectively catching and retaining drop balls in a well bore. The catcher is located on a workstring. A main bore (18) axially through the catcher is restrained to provide first (26) and second (28) bores of differing diameters. The first bore (26) is further restricted at a lower end, thus balls within the first bore (26) are retained and balls in the second bore (28) pass through the catcher. The bores preferably overlap to provide a channel (30) so that smaller balls can pass between the bores for release. In one embodiment, the second bore (28a) is located centrally through the catcher so that wireline tools and the like can be run through the catcher.



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